



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

OFFICE OF COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

For Immediate Release

OWI-1425

The Boston area's depleted fishing fleet, struggling hard to fill the Nation's larder, is hoisting the year's records for catches and fisherman's pay higher every day, according to the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries.

Twice within a week, the record at Boston's fish pier has been broken. Most recent title holder is the trawler, William J. O'Brien, which arrived with a 182,000-pound catch of cod and haddock after an eight-day voyage. The catch was sold for \$29,100.

The previous record, set only a few days before, was that of the Cormorant which brought in a catch worth \$27,000. The previous high was \$21,000.

The fishing fleet at Boston has been considerably reduced. There are about one-half as many large trawlers there as before. This, coupled with a rising demand for seafoods, has helped send the price of fish to new highs.

Although the rewards for fishing may be high now, fishermen are taking greater risks than ever before. The men work in icy and sometimes stormy weather and frequently don't get out of their clothes and into bunks for from 24 to 36 hours at a stretch. To this has been added the constant menace of submarines.

What is happening in Boston and Gloucester is also true of many other fishing centers. Prices are high, but the work is tough and dangerous.

With the demands of the armed services, our allies, and the job of feeding ourselves at home increasing the need for fish this year to the unprecedented total of 5 1/2 to 6 billion pounds more record catches will be necessary if the fishery industry is to achieve its goal, the Coordinator's office declared.